

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-23, and 25-34 remain pending in this application. Claim 1, 4, 17 and 32 were amended in this response. Claims 2, 7-8 and 24 were canceled, without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments.

Claims 8-13, 15-16 and 24-29 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 14, 17, 21, 22, 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Makikallio et al.* (US Patent 5,697,074) in view of *Kosugi et al.* (US Patent 5,369,789).

Claims 2, 7, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Makikallio et al.* (US Patent 5,697,074) in view of *Kosugi et al.* (US Patent 5,369,789) and further in view of *Liimatainen* (US Patent 6,370,364).

Claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 19, 20 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Makikallio et al.* (US Patent 5,697,074) in view of *Kosugi et al.* (US Patent 5,369,789) and further in view of *Liimatainen* (US Patent 6,370,364) and *Timmons* (US Patent 5,381,115).

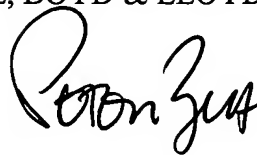
Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Makikallio et al.* (US Patent 5,697,074) in view of *Kosugi et al.* (US Patent 5,369,789) and further in view of *Chorey et al.* (US Patent 6,163,709). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 was amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter contained in claim 8. Claims 17 and 32 were amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter contained in claim 24. In light of the present amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-6, 9-23, and 25-34 of the present application are both novel and non-obvious over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under §103 be withdrawn and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (115426-527) on the account statement.

Appl. No. 10/075,925

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